



WESTLANDS STORMWATER COALITION

Conditional Ag Waiver Update

April 2, 2008



Westlands Stormwater Coalition

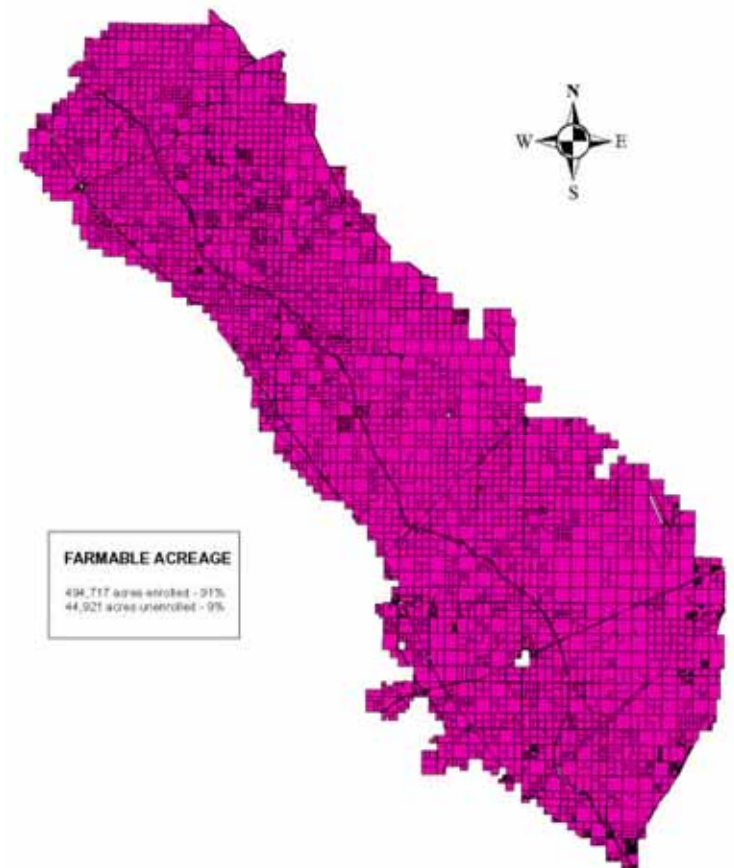
Where We Have Been ...

Genesis of Westlands Coalition.

- ◆ Coalition was formed in June '04
- ◆ In response to the Regional Board's newly adopted Conditional Ag Waiver.
- ◆ Coalition was formed exclusively on behalf of Westlands Water District's landowners and growers.

Coalition Service Area

- ◆ Nearly 1,000 sq. miles of prime farmland on the Westside of the central San Joaquin Valley.
- ◆ 570,000 acres are exclusively irrigable farm lands.
- ◆ The remaining 34,000 acres of land are mostly comprised of, state and county roads, highways, and right-of-way.





Uniqueness of the Westlands Coalition



- ◆ The Westlands Coalition is unique to the other Coalitions in that we only monitor stormwater discharges to Waters of the State.
- ◆ Westlands does not allow surface water discharges off the lands in their service area.
- ◆ Westland's field personnel monitor and correct operational spills throughout the Coalition's service area.
- ◆ The Coalition photo monitors all sites monthly.



Westlands Stormwater Coalition

Where We Are Today ...



Ag Waiver Participation



- ◆ 494,717 acres are currently enrolled.
- ◆ This represents 91% of the total acres available for irrigated agriculture.
- ◆ 40,000 acres contained in the 494,717 is a subset that represents acreage that is bound by deed restrictions for dry land farming only.



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Location and Description of Monitoring Sites

Monitoring Point: I-5 and Panoche-Silver Creek

- ◆ This location is in the northwesterly area of the Coalition's service area.
- ◆ 16 miles southeast of Mendota, CA.



Monitoring Point: Belmont Ave. and Panoche-Silver Creek

- ◆ This location is in the north east area of the Coalition's service area.
- ◆ 7 miles due east of Mendota, CA.



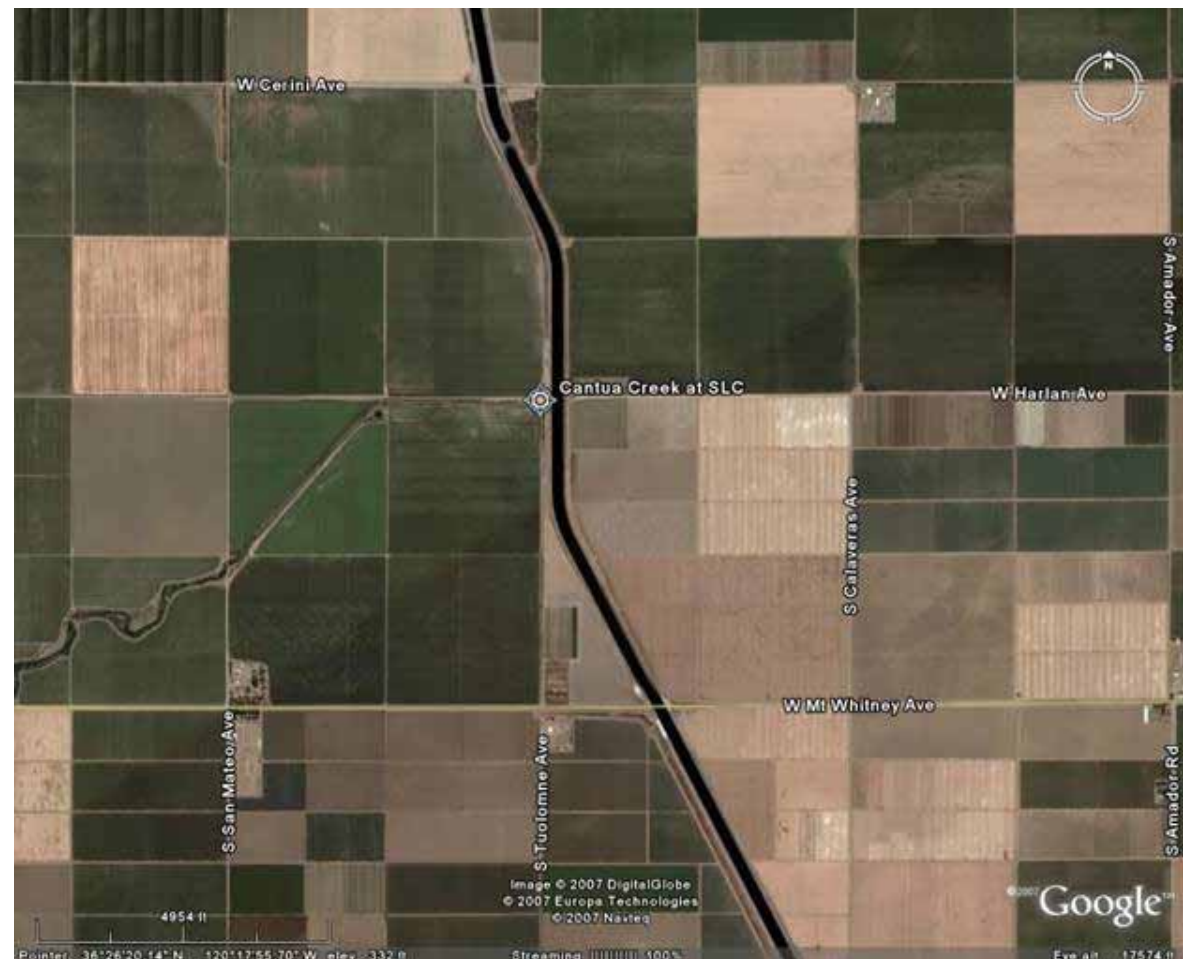
Monitoring Point: Cantua Creek at Highway 33

- ◆ This location is in the central western area of the Coalition's service area.
- ◆ 7.5 miles south east of Cantua Creek, CA.



Monitoring Point: Cantua Creek at the San Luis Canal

- ◆ This location is where the Cantua Creek terminates and “ponds” on the western side of the San Luis Canal
- ◆ 4 miles south of Cantua Creek, CA.



Monitoring Point: Arroyo Pasajero at El Dorado Ave.

- ◆ This location is in the southwest portion of the Coalition's service area
- ◆ 8.5 miles east of Coalinga CA.



Monitoring Point: Arroyo Pasajero at Marmon Ave.

- ◆ This location is in the south-central portion of the Coalition's service area
- ◆ 2 miles northwest of Huron, CA.





Coalition Funding



- ◆ \$325,000 is currently budgeted By Westlands Water District for the monitoring program.
- ◆ Funding levels are reviewed every budget cycle to ensure adequate funds are allocated and available.
- ◆ Every landowner and grower within Westlands pays for the Coalition's operating expenses as a component of their water rates.
- ◆ This funding method has proven adequate and will not change in the foreseeable future.



Westlands Stormwater Coalition

Where We Are Headed ...



Future Enrollment Efforts



- ◆ The Coalition will use existing methods, i.e., direct mail, web site, and Westlands publications to prod remaining growers to contact the Regional Board.
- ◆ Identify non-participants using internal billing records and contact these growers individually.
- ◆ Enlist the help of current participants to speak to those not enrolled to encourage non-participants to “get with the program.”



Best Management Practices



- ◆ Use existing Westlands loan program to encourage growers to convert to drip systems, gated irrigation pipe, and other efficient water delivery systems to minimize water run-off.
- ◆ Continue to provide growers with current scientific and technical information concerning new best management practices.
- ◆ Provide for an “Ag Waiver” agenda item during various Westlands Board meetings and workshops to update growers on the latest farming practices in the industry.



Continue Open Dialogue



- ◆ The Coalition's goal is to provide the Regional Board the best possible product that we can produce.
- ◆ We remain committed to keep the Regional Board informed of any potential problems in our monitoring program and welcome any input from Regional Board staff to help correct the problem.
- ◆ The Coalition will continue to use only the highest quality labs, equipment, and techniques to provide the Regional Board with scientifically defensible data to facilitate their responsibility to provide the public with the highest water quality possible.